GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5094
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2002
PILING UP OF HANDLOOM ITEMS
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN;VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that handloom and Khadi items have been piling up with the weavers in various States;

(b) whether this situation has arisen because of non-procurement of handloom items by different Government departments;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to taken any concrete action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) The government has information that large stock of Khadi cloth has been piling up with the Khadi Institutions.However, the stock position which was of the value of Rs.778 crore as on 1.4.2000 had come down to Rs.658 crore as on 1.4.2001.

In so far as handloom items are concerned, the Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that Silk Weavers` Cooperative Societies of Kancheepuram Circle are having a stock of one to two years old, worth Rs.33.98 crore. Apart from that there has not been any report on piling up of handloom items.

(b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries does not procure any Khadi directly.However, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) doesprocure Khadi cloth. The situation has arisen mainly on account of poor demand and poor design of Khadi products. In fact, Khadi production has shown a steady decline from 98 million sq. metres in 1998-99 to only 69 million sq. metres in 2000-01.

In respect of Handloom items also, it may be stated that the production and sale of such items are not dependent upon the requirement of such items in Government Departments. It may, however, be stated that the Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) has executed orders worth Rs.2041.00 lakh,Rs. 2217.24 lakh and Rs.2506.62 lakh for supply of handloom items to various Government Ministries/Departments during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) & (d) In order to strengthen the Khadi and Village Industries sector so as to make itviable, vibrant and sustainable, the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries announced a Khadi package on 14.05.2001.For the Khadi sector, the package, inter-alia, has provision for insurance for Khadi artisans, long-term rebate policy, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance, Brand promotion for Khadi products etc.

In so far as handloom items are concerned, the Governmentprovides marketing support in the form of Marketing Incentive under the Deendayal Hathkargha Postahan Yojana implemented w.e.f. 1.4.2000. In addition, in order to provide marketing opportunities to the handloom organisations, the Government provides assistance for organising National Handloom Expos, Special Handloom Expos, District Level events i.e. Fairs and Melasetc. During the year 2001-02, 18 National /Special Handloom Expos and 101 District level events were held and an amount of Rs.682.45 lakh has been released to various States/agencies during the year 2001-02..